

U.S. Mottoes

Goal: Students will gain an awareness and appreciation for how Latin Literature has influenced the make-up of the U.S. state seals.

Objective: Students will learn the Latin mottoes for 25 states in the United States of America. Students will improve translation skills. They will also learn the geographical position for these states.

Materials needed: Latina Dicta Worksheet, U.S. map., Latin-English dictionary

Preparation (before class): Photocopy several Latina Dicta worksheets (teachers may need to modify these for your week).

Teacher Instruction (in class): The following should happen once each day for the course of the unit:

1. When class begins, write one motto on the board.
2. Give students five minutes to attempt to translate the motto.
 - a. Students may work individually or in groups of 2 – 3
 - b. Some mottoes may be too difficult. The teacher may want to write vocabulary hits on the board with the motto in these cases.
3. Discuss the motto and its relevance to the state it represents. The teacher may wish to ask students to guess which state the motto represents before revealing the answer.
4. Identify and label the state on a map.

Follow Up: This is a great study to hold concurrently with a unit on U.S. geography. It also serves as a great precursor to a state project. Ask students to select one of these states as the subject for an oral report. Require them to include what they have learned from this Latin study in that project. They might also be asked to reproduce an image of the state seal or coat of arms bearing the Latin motto.

PLEASE PROOF THE MOTTOES ON THE HARD COPY.